

AMENDED CLAIMS

[received by the International Bureau on 24 December 2004 (24.12.2004);
original claims 1-27 unchanged; original claims 28-30 cancelled;
original claim 31 renumbered as claim 28 (2 pages)]

(i) said first RNA region comprises a nucleotide sequence of at least 100 consecutive nucleotides having at least about 90% sequence identity to the nucleotide sequence of a gene from *Arabidopsis thaliana* involved in the development of a dehiscence zone and valve margin of said pod;

5 (ii) said second RNA region comprises a nucleotide sequence complementary to said 100 consecutive nucleotides of said first RNA region;

(iii) said first and second RNA region are capable of base-pairing to form a double stranded RNA molecule between at least said 100 consecutive nucleotides of said first and second region.

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22. A chimeric gene as described in any one of claims 1 to 21.

15 23. A cell of a *Brassicaceae* plant comprising the chimeric gene according to claim 22.

24. A *Brassicaceae* plant obtainable by the methods of any one of claims 1 to 22.

20 25. A *Brassicaceae* plant comprising a chimeric gene according to claim 22 stably integrated into the genome of its cell.

26. Progeny of the *Brassicaceae* plant according to claim 24 or 25 comprising a chimeric gene according to claim 22 stably integrated into the genome of its cells.

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27. Seed from the plants of the *Brassicaceae* plants of any one of the claims 24 to 26, or 25 comprising a chimeric gene according to claim 22 stably integrated into the genome of its cells.

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28. An agricultural method comprising

(i) sowing seeds according to claim 27 or planting plants according to any one of claims 24 to 26 in a field;

- (ii) growing said plants until the pods are mature;
- (iii) harvesting seeds from said pods by threshing with a combine harvester.